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SCELLANEOUS MANUSCRIPTS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR ERA, 1771-1791

IN THE
PENNSYLVANIA STATE ARCHIVES



ROLAND M. BAUMANN, *Editor*
MARTHA L. SIMONETTI AND DOUGLAS H. WEST,
ASSISTANT EDITORS

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION



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GUIDE TO THE MICROFILM
OF THE
**MISCELLANEOUS
MANUSCRIPTS OF
THE REVOLUTIONARY
WAR ERA, 1771-1791**
(MANUSCRIPT GROUP 275)

IN THE
PENNSYLVANIA STATE ARCHIVES

1 ROLL

A Microfilm Project of the

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL
AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

ROLAND M. BAUMANN, *Project Director and Editor*
MARTHA L. SIMONETTI, *Assistant Editor*
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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
Harrisburg, 1978

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INTRODUCTION

This one microfilm roll reproduces "Miscellaneous Manuscripts of the American Revolutionary War Era, 1771-1791." Totalling about 275 items or approximately one cubic foot, this collection principally consists of loose correspondence; there are extracts, receipts, petitions and certifications. Also included is a copy (bound volume) of the Minutes of the Susquehanna Company (1753-1786). Nearly 213 items fall within the period 1776-1786, and about a half-dozen are dated before 1776 and two dozen after 1786. Forty items are listed as having no date.

Many of these loose papers relate to the political, military and fiscal activities and policies of the American Revolution in Pennsylvania and of the infant United States. There are letters of some Pennsylvania notables. Documents of particular interest include items of Timothy Pickering, Charles Pettit, David Grier, John McDowell, and John Davis, all in the Department of the Quartermaster General, and Robert Morris (relating to his resignation as Superintendent of Finance). There are also a significant number of letters for New Jersey's Elias Boudinot, and Massachusetts Congressman Elbridge Gerry. Finally, there are papers relating to the Wyoming Controversy and to the activities of the Continental Board of War.

The papers in Manuscript Group 275 are distinct from Manuscript Group 8—Miscellaneous Manuscripts (Pennsylvania Collection), 1626-1970. The latter (MG-8), consisting of 7.5 cubic feet, contains a variety of documents falling within the same time span; but these items were received largely as small gifts from patrons or purchased one or two items at a time from dealers. Also, to a lesser degree, the group contains manuscripts purged from other collections.

Thus, miscellaneous manuscript groups are established for purposes of convenience and control. The Pennsylvania State Archives, like so many archival repositories, has used this group to place single items and previously misfiled historical materials. During the 1960's, when the Commission prepared a number of micropublications, many miscellaneous materials were routinely deleted or extracted from Record Group 21, Records of the Proprietary Government, 1664-1776; Manuscript Group 19, Sequestered Baynton, Wharton, and Morgan Papers, 1725-1827; and Manuscript Group 96, Sequestered John Nicholson Papers (1778-1800). There were also a number of less significant changes in other manuscript groups.

A two-year grant to the Division of Archives and Manuscripts (the Pennsylvania State Archives) from the National Endowment for the Humanities

1975 provided an opportunity to prepare a fifty-four-roll micro-

edition of Record Group 27, the Records of Pennsylvania's Revolutionary Governments, 1775-1790 (previously known as Records of the Supreme Executive Council, 1775-1790). In the process of arranging and organizing the series of these important records of the Committee governments and the Supreme Executive Council, it was discovered that some documents had inadvertently found their way into the above record group. Instead of transferring these items to MG-8, Miscellaneous Manuscripts, 1626-1970, as had previously been done or listing them at the back of the microfilm publication, it was decided to establish a separate manuscript group for these loose and misfiled items. This practice was adopted for two principal reasons: first, the number of items was larger than usual and, second, we reasoned that the integrity of previous scholarship could be better preserved if these related papers were organized separately as a collection under MG-275. However, there were two exceptions to the above practice. Certain documents that could be clearly identified by their endorsements as having been created by the legislature were filed as part of Record Group 7, Records of the General Assembly, 1776-1974. Second, some thirty-one documents written by Col. Daniel Brodhead, which were never printed in the *Pennsylvania Archives* and probably were transferred from the Land Office to the State Archives many decades ago, were placed together to form Manuscript Group 276, Archibald Lochry Letters, 1779-1780.

The editor would like to thank Miss Martha Simonetti, Associate Archivist, and Douglas H. West for their valuable assistance in the completion of this project. Gabrielle Smith microfilmed the material and she and Diane Smith Wallace assisted the project in several other useful ways. The preliminary and final copy of this guide was typed by Angela Orsini, Division secretary. John Bodnar, Chief of the Division of History, supervised publication of the guide, and Harold L. Myers, Associate Historian, checked manuscript and proof and handled production. Finally, I would like to thank members of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Executive Director William J. Wewer, and Director of the Bureau of Archives and History Harry E. Whipkey for making this publication possible.

ABBREVIATIONS

The editors have tried to use proper and well established abbreviations in item headings to permit ease in reading and to make for a more manageable and less expensive published *Guide*. Generally accepted abbreviations, such as of months of the year, or those that appear in *A Manual of Style*, 12th edition, revised (Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1969), have not been listed. Nor has the abbreviation agst. for against been noted. The following list contains the military or political abbreviations used in this guide.

Assistant Deputy Quarter Master General	A.D.Q.M.Gen.
Assistant Quarter Master General	A.Q.M.Gen.
Auditor General	Aud. Gen.
Commissary General.	Commsy. Gen.
Deputy Adjutant General	Dep. Adj. Gen.
Deputy Marshal	Dep. Marshal
Deputy Quarter Master General	D.Q.M. Gen.
Deputy Secretary.	Dep. Secy.
Justice of the Peace	J.P.
Pennsylvania Artillery.	P.A.
Pennsylvania Hospital Department	Pa. Hosp. Dept.
Pennsylvania Militia	P.M.
Secretary	Secy.

LIST OF THE MISCELLANEOUS MANUSCRIPTS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR ERA, 1771-1791

<i>Date</i>	<i>Heading</i>	<i>Frame</i>
Dec. 13, 1771	Nicholas, Thomas, Proceedings of Berks Co. Orphans' Court (copy)	1
Nov. 27, 1773	Douglass, Geo., Inventory of Goods sold to him in Carnarvan Store	5
July 18, 1775	Dunwick, William, et al., Gunmakers, Articles of Agreement with Chester Co. Board (with receipt)	16
Oct. 4, [1775]	James Molesworth agst. Daniel Ker, Somerset Co., [N.J.], <i>Capias</i> for	17
Oct. 21, 1775	Kirkham, Anthony, Asia, to Geo. Mead & Co.	18
Nov. 10, 1775	[Lancaster Co.] Committee, Minutes (Gunsmiths), Extract of	20
[Dec. 6, 1775]	Germantown & Southwark Lots, Memorandum on Deeds	22
Jan. 3, 1776	Kennedy, Samuel, Phila., to Continental Congress	24
Mar. 15, 1776	Lancaster Co. Sub Committee (on Powder), Report of (with account) (See: [Lancaster Co.] Committee, Minutes, Mar. 16, 1776)	27
Mar. 16, 1776	[Lancaster Co.] Committee, Minutes, Copy of	25
Mar. 26, 1776	Pringle, John, Phila., to Capt. P. Frazier (with receipt)	29
Apr. 5, 1776	Bell, John, Phila. Gaol, to Mayor [Samuel Powel], Philadelphia	31
Apr. 5, 1776	Clark, Robert, Phila. Gaol, to Mayor [Samuel Powel], Philadelphia	33
Apr. 23, 1776	[Swanwick, John], Phila., to John Ross (copy)	35
May 6, 1776	Preston, Chas., Reading, to [Pres.] John Hancock	37
May 19, 1776	Sullivan, Jno., Brig. Gen., Albany, [N.Y.], Courts Martial ordered by	39
May 29, [1776]	_____, N. Hampton, Va., to _____ (extract, re: salt)	40

<i>Date</i>	<i>Heading</i>	<i>Frame</i>
July 5, 1776	Kuhn, Lodwig (Ludowick), to Continental Congress	43
July 12, 1776	Haller, Henrich, Reading, to _____ (in German)	45
July 15, 1776	Atlee, Wm. A., Chairman, Lancaster, to York Co. Committee [of Safety]	47
July 15, 1776	Opp, Jacob, & Henry Haller, Northampton Co., Bond to Jeremias Dencke (Bond)	49
July 26, 1776	Edwards, John, Bordentown, [N.J.], to Col. [Joseph] Kirkbride	52
July 26, 1776	Arms taken from Springfield Twp., [Bucks Co.]	54
July 27, 1776	Boger, R., York Jail, to York Committee of Safety	55
July 27, 1776	Muskets received by Joseph McIlvaine, Bristol Twp., [Bucks Co.]	57
Aug. 2, 1776	Donaldson, Jos., Elizabethtown, to York Co. Committee [of Safety]	59
Aug. 15, 1776	Smith, J., Phila., to York Co. Committee [of Safety]	61
Aug. 17, 1776	Atlee, Wm. A., Chairman, Lancaster, to York Co. Committee [of Safety]	63
Aug. 23, 1776	Haller, Henry, Reading, to Capt. Daniel Turck	65
Sept. 16, 1776	[Continental] Board of War, Opinion on Fortification of Billingsport	67
Oct. 4, 1776	Parsons, Saml. H., Camp near Kingsbridge, [N.Y.], Certification of	68
Nov. 5, 1776	McCune, Saml., Fort Lee, [N.J.], to Col. William Clark	70
Nov. 6, 1776	Mackay, En[eas], Kittanning, to Col. James Wilson	72
Nov. 8, 1776	Orders to Majors from Majs. [Michael] Ryan & [Richard] Butler (with account)	74
Nov. 14, 1776	Moor, John, Fort Lee, [N.J.], to Col. Henry Hill	76
Nov. 25, 1776	Hart, Joseph, Chairman, Bucks Co., to _____ (with account of Guns taken, New Britain Twp.)	77
Dec. 3, 1776	Reid, George, to Wm. Gray	79
Dec. 5, 1776	Mackay, En[eas], Kittanning, to Secy. Richard Peters, [Continental] Board of War	81
Dec. 9, 1776	Woelpper, D., Capt., French Creek Powder Mill, [Chester Co.], to [Continental Board of War?]	82
[1776]	Dowlings, Daniel, to Chester Co. Rep. John Jacobs in [Constitutional] Convention	84

<i>Date</i>	<i>Heading</i>	<i>Frame</i>
[Jan. ?, 1777]	Hartley, Thos., to Maj. Joseph Donaldson	85
Feb. 6, 1777	Simpson, James, Receipt from	88
Feb. 10, 1777	Chamberlaine, Jas. Lloyd, Talbot Co., Md., to Thomas Bond	89
Feb. 13, 1777	Dunlop, Jas., Shippensburg, to Col. David Greir (Grier)	91
[Feb. 21, 1777]	Shallop <i>Liberty</i> , Sale & Title Transfer of (3 items)	93
Feb. 23, 1777	Farmer, Lewis, Maj., Phila., to Capt. Philip Al- bright	96
Feb. 26, 1777	Warren, John, [Dr.], Phila., to [Congressman] Elbridge Gerry, [Mass.]	98
Mar. 14, 1777	Denison, Nathan, Westmoreland, to Congress- man Roger Shareman (Sherman) & Samuel Huntington (Conn.)	101
Mar. 22, 1777	Latimer, Geo., Newport, [Del.], to James Cannon (See: Cannon to Procter, Apr. 2, 1777)	108
Mar. 27, 1777	Procter, Thos., Col., P.A., Phila., to Capt. Isaac Craig	105
Apr. 2, 1777	Cannon, James, [Phila.], to Col. Thomas Procter	106
Apr. 8, 1777	Lee, Gersham, to William Roushe	109
Apr. 9, 1777	Bensel, Charles, Germantown, to Maj. [Lewis] Farmer	111
Apr. 10, 1777	Mackay, Geo., Sgt., Lancaster Gaol, to Capt. John Smith (with note)	113
Apr. 12, 1777	_____, Phila., to _____	116
Apr. 20, 1777	Hampton, John, Elizabethtown, to Richard Stockton	117
Apr. 30, 1777	Johnston, Lary, Bucks Co., Deposition by (agst Wm. Butler Linch)	119
Apr. ?, 1777	Quantities of Iron & Steel taken from Coxe & Furman Stores (fragment)	121
May 19, 1777	Cameron, Alan, Phila., to Susannah Papley	123
June 7, 1777	Parsey, John, Mount Holly, N.J., to Wm. Austin (Bond)	125
June 21, 1777	Whilldin, James, & Henry Hand, Cape May, [N.J.], to Pres. Robert Morris, [Continental] Board of War	127
June 23, 1777	McDowell, Jno., Carlisle, to Col. David Grier	129
July 9, 1777	Knight, Jno., Morristown, [N.J.], to Lt. Col. [David] Grier	133

<i>Date</i>	<i>Heading</i>	<i>Frame</i>
July 10, 1777	Hay, Saml., Camp Morristown, [N.J.], to Lt. Col. David Grier	135
[July 19, 1777]	Gibson, John, [Albany, N.Y., to U.S. Board of Treasury] (copy)	138
Aug. 2, 1777	Christ, Henry, Berks Co. Wagon Master Gen., Reading, to Michael Kreisher (Kreishner)	140
Aug. 4, 1777	[Northumberland Co.], Muncy Twp., Advertisement for J.P. Election	142
Aug. 5, 1777	Morris, Robt., Phila., to John White Swift (copy, No. 4, in hand of John Swanwick)	143
Aug. 7, 1777	Gibson, John, Aud. Gen., Treasury Office, Phila., to Nathaniel Appleton	146
Aug. 9, 1777	Grier, David, Camp near Germantown, to Maj. William Bailey	148
Aug. 21, 1777	Thompson, William, et al., Sussex Co., Del., Warrant for Treason	150
Aug. 25, 1777	Galbraith, Thos., Ligonier, to Brig. Gen. [Edward] Hand	152
Sept. 1, 1777	Alexander, William, Carlisle, to Col. David Grier	154
Sept. 3, 1777	Gibson, John, Aud. Gen., Board of Treasury, Phila., to Pres. John Adam Trentlin (Ga.)	156
Sept. 15, 1777	Alexander, Charles, <i>Delaware</i> frigate off Billingsport, to Robert Morris	157
Oct. 30, 1777	Richardson, Joseph, Order for his release (copy)	159
Nov. 2, 1777	Pickering, Tim., Camp at Whitpain Twp., [Phila. Co.], to Congressman Elbridge Gerry, [Mass.]	160
Nov. 4, 1777	[Bedford Co.], Cumberland Valley Twp., Advertisement for [Militia] Officer Elections	163
Nov. 21, 22, 1777	Pilkington, Thomas, Provost Guard, to Adj. Gen. [Timothy] Pickering Reverse side: Note by Commsy. Gen. [of Prisoners] Elias Boudinot	165
Nov. 25, 1777	Pickering, Tim., Jr., Camp at White Marsh, [Phila. Co.], to E. Gerry, [Mass.]	168
Dec. 6, 1777	Roberdeau, Daniel, Lancaster, to Congressman E. Gerry, [Mass.]	172
[Dec. 10, 1777]	Form of Attorney General's Commission in New Jersey	175
[1776-1777]	Attendance of Members by Name	177
Jan. 12, 1778	Bailey, Wm., Newautvick, Long Island, [N.Y.], to Margaret Bailey	178

<i>Date</i>	<i>Heading</i>	<i>Frame</i>
Jan. 28, [1778]	Nourse, Jos., Dep. Secy., War Office, [York], to Ensign Wm. Russel (with Opinion of [Continental] Board of War)	181
Feb. 21, 1778	Russel, William, Ensign, to [Continental] Board of War	184
Mar. 20, 1778	Franklin, Thos., Phila., to Elias Boudinot	186
May 6, 1778	McKissack, William, Long Island, [N.Y.], to Commsy. Gen. of Prisoners Elias Boudinot	188
May 17, 1778	Pettit, Chas., A.Q.M. Gen., Camp Valley Forge, to Col. John Davis, D.Q.M. Gen.	190
June ?, 1778	French Edict on the Judicial and Police functions of French Consuls (extract in French)	194
July 5, 1778	McClaran, Hugh, Wagon Master, Bedford, to [Col.] John Davis, D.Q.M. Gen.	197
Aug. 3, 1778	Brown, John, Lancaster, to Col. [John] Davis, D.Q.M. Gen.	199
Aug. 18, 1778	Bready, Hugh, to Capt. [Saml.] Postlethwaite	202
Aug. 19, 1778	Sweers, Hannah, Phila., to [Pres.] Henry Laurens, [S.C.]	204
Sept. 18, 1778	Pettit, Chas., A.Q.M. Gen., Capt. Brown's 2 Miles N.E. of Capt. Height's, [N.Y.], to Lord Stirling	208
Sept. 22, 1778	Lawaeg?, Henry, & Peter Kohler, [Northampton Co.], to Dr. John Mush	210
Sept. 23, 1778	Townsend, David, Danbury, [Conn.?), to Maj. Gen. [Benedict] Arnold	212
Oct. 5, 1778	_____, to _____	215
Oct. 5, 1778	Grier, D [avid, Col.], York, to Col. John Davis, D.Q.M. Gen.	217
Oct. 27, 1778	Stark, John, Brig. Gen., Hqrs., Albany, [N.Y.], to Capts. Porter & [Abner] Pomroy, Mass. Militia (copy)	219
Jan. 18, 1779	Wilson, Robt., East Nottingham Twp., [Chester Co.], to Joseph Gardner	221
[Jan. 29, 1779]	[Atlee, William A., to Samuel J. Atlee]	223
May 12, 1779	Watkins, Jos., Phila., Certification of receipt for powder	225
June 7, 1779	Weedon, G., Fredericksburg, [Va.], to _____	226
June 8, 1779	Smith, Thomas, Bedford, to Col. John Davis, D.Q.M. Gen.	230
July 9, 1779	Hall, John (for Col. John Mitchell, D.Q.M. Gen.), Phila., to Col. John Davis, D.Q.M. Gen.	233

<i>Date</i>	<i>Heading</i>	<i>Frame</i>
July 14, 1779	Hand, Edw., Brig. Gen., Estherton, [Lancaster Co.], to Col. John Davis, D.Q.M. Gen.	235
July 18, 1779	Maxwell, Jas., Conococheague, [Cumberland Co.], to Col. John Davis, D.Q.M. Gen.	237
Aug. 13, 1779	Elder, Robt., Col., Paxton, [Lancaster Co.], to Col. Bartrem Galbraith	239
Aug. 13, 1779	Scott, Abm., Capt., Elizabethtown, to _____	241
Aug. 14, 1779	Brady, Joseph, to Capt. [Saml.] Postlethwaite, A.D.Q.M. Gen.	243
Aug. 21, 1779	Elder, Robt., Col., Coxetown, [Lancaster Co.], to Col. Bartrem Galbraith	245
Oct. 1, 1779	Palmer, Jos., Germantown, to Congressman Saml. Holten (Mass.) (copy)	247
Oct. 16, 1779	<i>George Geddis v. The Sloop Sall</i> (Decree)	251
Oct. 26, 1779	Campbell, William, Northumberland, to Brig. Gen. [Edward] Hand	253
Oct. 29, 1779	Peters, Richard (for [Continental] Board of War), War Office, Phila., to [Congressman] Henry Laurens, [S.C.].	255
Oct. 30, 1779	Claiborne, R[ichard], D.Q.M. Gen., West Point, [N.Y.], to D.Q.M. Gen. Henry Hollingsworth	258
Nov. 7, 1779	Perkins, Josiah, New York, Statement on	260
Dec. 9, 1779	Bryon, A.?, White Hall, to Maj. Gen. [Benj.] Lincoln	262
Apr. 9, 1780	Lincoln, B[enj.], Charlestown, [S.C.], to Mass. Delegates in Congress	265
Apr. 10, 1780	Kerby, John, Halifax, [Mass.?], to William Shute	269
May 10, 1780	[Holten, Saml.], Phila., to _____ Derby (copy) (See: Lincoln to Mass. Delegates, Apr. 9, 1780)	267
May 27, 1780	Thompson, Wm., at Camp, to Gen. Wm. Irvine	271
July 28, 1780	Duncan, James, Camp Paramas ?, [N.J.], to Maj. John Clark	274
Aug. 2, 1780	Mc[Clean], Alexander, et al., Belston, [Va.], to Cpts. Lynch & [James] Dougherty	276
[Sept. 1, 1780]	Kearns, Robert, [Phila.], to [Continental] Board of War (fragment, with subscribers)	279
[Sept. 13, 1780]	Officers of Col. Baxter's Regt. (Prisoners), Long Island, [N.Y.], to Commsy. Gen. of Prisoners Elias Boudinot	281
Sept. 30, 1780	Stewart, Chas., Commsy. Gen. of Issues, Hqrs., Tappan, [N.Y.], to Gen. Washington (copy)	283

<i>Date</i>	<i>Heading</i>	<i>Frame</i>
Oct. 14, 1780	[Will, William], Sheriff, Phila. Co., <i>Venire Facias</i> of (with list of jurors)	284
Oct. 16, 1780	Culbertson, John, Request to reconsider evidence agst.	287
Nov. 23, 1780	Agence de la Marine R[oy]ale (in French)	289
[1780]	Mansan, Terrance?, Militia Papers for his Court of Appeal (fragment)	290
[1780]	Remarks concerning the Purveyor & Apothecary by Ed. W.	293
Apr. 10, 1781	Clarkson, Matthew, Court of Admiralty Rule & Order to (See: Clarkson, Matthew, June 3, 1782)	352
June 22, 1781	Parker, Andrew, Certification of his Captaincy	295
June 30, 1781	Pickering, T., Q.M. Gen., Camp, to Brig. Gen.[Edward] Hand, Adj. Gen.	296
July 3, 1781	Barber, F., Camp 15 miles from Williamsburgh, [Va.], to _____ (No. 4)	298
July 11, 1781	Biddle, Owen, Phila., to Col. John Davis, D.Q.M. Gen.	300
Aug. 15, 1781	Rittenhouse, David, State Treas., Phila., to Treas. Bernard Dougherty, Bedford Co.	303
Aug. 28, 1781	Morris, Robt., Office of Finance, [Phila.], to Pres. of Congress [Thos. McKean]	305
Sept. 28, 1781	[Morris, Robt.], Office of Finance, [Phila.], to [Frederick A. Muhlenberg] (pages missing)	310
Oct. 23, 1781	England, [Richard?], Maj., D.Q.M. Gen. of Br. Army, Advertisement for lost Pocket Book	314
Nov. 5, 1781	McVeagh, Benj., Frankford, [Phila. Co.], to Col. Wm. Dean	316
Nov. 15, 1781	Hubley, Adm., Lt. of Lancaster Co., to the Lancaster Co. Gaoler	318
Nov. 17, 1781	Haskell, E[lnathon], Dep. Adj. Gen., West Point, [N.Y.], to _____ McCarthy	319
Nov. 30, 1781	Heath, W[illiam], Maj. Gen., Hqrs., Highlands, [N.Y.], to Fr. Consul [John Holker]	320
Dec. 19, 1781	Pickering, Tim., Q.M. Gen., New Windsor, [N.Y.], to Richard Varrick	321
Jan. 7, 1782	Lacey, John, New Mills, [N.J.], to John Litle	324
Mar. 15, 1782	Rucker, John (for Jon. Nesbitt & Co.), L'Orient, [Fr.], to John Brown	326
Mar. 22, 1782	Swift, Saml., Jr., to Jon. Gilbert	329
[Mar. ?, 1782]	Congress, Committee Resolutions (Supt. of Finance Robt. Morris), Copy of	330

<i>Date</i>	<i>Heading</i>	<i>Frame</i>
Apr. 1, 1782	Hubley, Adam, Lt., Lancaster, to Sub. Lt. Wm. Steel	334
Apr. 10, 1782	Morris, Robt., Office of Finance, [Phila.], to Brig. Gen. [Lachlan] McIntosh Reverse side: McIntosh, Phila., to Morris	336
Apr. 11, 1782	[Hull], Wm., [Lt. Col.], Highlands, [N.Y.], to Capt. Pemberton	340
May 20, 1782	Morris, Robt., Office of Finance, [Phila.], to M. M. Hays	342
May 24, 1782	Cochran, Dr. John, New Windsor, [N.Y.], to Edward Williams	344
June 1, 1782	Wayne, Anth., Hqrs., Ebenezer, [Ga.], to Lt. Col. Jackson	347
June 3, 1782	Clarkson, Matthew, Court of Admiralty Rule & Order to	350
July 10, 1782	Reilly, Peter, to Robt. Galbraith	353
July 13, 1782	[Westmoreland Co.], Pitt Twp., Advertisement for J.P. Election	355
Aug. 15, 1782	Reid, James R., to Gen. [Benj.] Lincoln	356
Sept. 9, 1782	Gilchrist, Adam, Acting D.Q.M. Gen., Phila., to Col. Clement Biddle, Q.M. Gen., P.M.	357
Sept. 21, 1782	General Assembly, Minutes (Admiralty Fines), Extract from	361
Nov. 20, 1782	Büler, Andreas, New York, to Ludwig Young (in German)	362
[Nov. 26, 1782]	List of Names, Entry Dates & Quantity of Arms on State Temporary Line	364
[1782]	Doherty, Philip, Documents relating to his case (4 items)	369
Jan. 23, 1783	Gloniger, Jno., Sub. Lt., Lancaster Co., to Constable Jacob Eppright, Lebanon	377
Apr. 24, 1783	Seagrove, J[ames], Havana, [Cuba], to John Brown	379
May 17, 1783	Morris, Robt., Office of Finance, [Phila.], to Joseph Clay	382
July 22, 1783	Fleeson, Plunket, Bond from New Castle Co., Del.	384
Aug. 11, 1783	Trindle, John, East Pennsboro Twp., Cumberland Co., to Abraham Smith	385
Oct. 11, 1783	Greene, [Nathanael], Gen., Phila., to Gen. Washington (extract)	387
[Oct. 15, 1783]	Congress, Committee Report (Indian Affairs), Copy of (printed)	388

<i>Date</i>	<i>Heading</i>	<i>Frame</i>
Oct. 22, 1783	Will, William, & Thomas Proctor, Indenture of Assignment between	390
Feb. 14, 1783	[General Assembly], Minutes, Copy of (printed)	394
Feb. 15, 1784	Carleton, Jos., War Office, [Phila.], to Edward Williams, Pa. Hosp. Dept.	396
[Feb. 23, 1784 ?]	A[tlee], S[amuel] J., Lancaster Co., Memorial of	398
[Mar. 29, 1784]	[Northumberland Co.], Orders for Five Surveys	403
Apr. 19, 1784	Chester Co., U[w]chland & East Nantmeal Twps., Advertisement for J.P. Election	405
Apr. 22, 1784	Adams, John, The Hague, [United Neth.], to Pres. Thomas Mifflin (copy, with two enclosures & translations)	406
Apr. 26, 1784	Congress, Minutes (Committee of the States), Copy of	410
July 24, 1784	Shrear, George, Transfer of his property to Jacob Bower	414
Aug. 23, 1784	Roach, Isaac, [Phila.], to John Hazelwood	416
Aug. 30, 1784	Forher, Ludwig Caspar, Agreement concerning his land (copy in German)	419
Sept. 1, 1784	Shield(s), Luke, Sloop <i>Delaware</i> , to Phila. Port. Wardens (No. 2)	421
Sept. 4, 1784	Shield(s), Luke, Sloop <i>Delaware</i> , Report on Delaware River (No. 3)	423
Oct. 15, 1784	Stewart, Alex., Chambers Town, [Franklin Co.], to Majs. Bowen & Bush	427
Nov. 10, 1784	Armstrong, Joseph, Franklin Co., to Maj. Mowan (Bowen)	429
Mar. 4, 1785	Ross, Geo., Lancaster, Indenture to Thomas Foxcraft & Joseph Galloway	431
Mar. 19, 1785	Franklin Co. inhabitants, Guilford Twp., Petition of	435
Apr. 2, 1785	Pickering, [Timothy], & [Samuel] Hodgdon, Phila., to [Congressman Elbridge Gerry, [Mass.]] (with note)	436
May 12, 1785	Pettit, Chas., Phila., to Boston Mercantile Committee	441
July 11, 1785	How, Richard, & John Eliot, Great Britain, Letter of Attorney for (with Certification & Affirmation)	444
Aug. 15, 1785	Mifflin, Thomas, Reading, to Thomas Smith	450
Sept. 2, 1785	Irwin (Erwin), William, Northumberland Co., Certification respecting	452
Sept. 2, 1785	Clark, Walter, Northumberland Co., Certification respecting	453

<i>Date</i>	<i>Heading</i>	<i>Frame</i>
Sept. 3, 1785	Erwin (Irwin), William, Northumberland Co., Certification of his Estate	454
Sept. 5, 1785	Charters, William, Northumberland Co., Cer- tification of his Estate	455
Sept. 23, 1785	Morris, Robert, to Congress (copy) (See also: U.S. Board of Treasury, Nov. 24, 1785, for 2nd copy)	456 467
Sept. 28, 1785	Martin, Robert, Northumberland Co., Certifica- tion of his Estate	458
Oct. 14, 1785	Wilson, William, Northumberland Co., Certifi- cations respecting (2 items)	460
Nov. 2, 1785	Laddon, James S., Northumberland Co., Certifi- cation respecting	462
Nov. 2, 1785	McMachan, James, Northumberland Co., Cer- tifications respecting	463
Nov. 24, 1785	U.S. Board of Treasury, Report (Robt. Morris), Copy of	464
Nov. 24, 1785	Levy, Aaron, Northumberland Co., Certifica- tion of his Estate	470
Jan. 13, 1786	Rodgers, Joseph, Wilmington, Del., Pass to trav- el in Md.	471
Jan. 20, 1786	Clemens, Jacob, Phila., License for House of En- tertainment	472
Mar. 17, 1786	Beswick, Christopher, & _____ Pryor, In- ventory of Goods & Cash stolen from their Store	474
June 7, 1786	Stroud, Jacob, Lt. Col., Easton, to Col. Henry W. Archer	476
Aug. 2, 1786	Thomson, Chas., Office of Secy. of Congress, [New York], to E[bridge] Gerry; [Mass.]	477
Aug. 23, 1786	Forher, Ludwig Caspar, Investigations respect- ing (copy in German)	479
Aug. 25, 1786	Anderson, Richard C., Louisville, [Va.], to Maj. North	483
Sept. 13, 1786	Courtenay, Her[cules], Baltimore, [Md.], to Saml. Inglis & Co., [Phila.] (copy)	485
Oct. 17, [1786]	Propositions of the New Jersey Commissioners concerning the Delaware River (copy)	486
Nov. 28, 1786	Northumberland Co. Commissioners, Journal of the Proceedings (Luzerne Co. Division), Ex- tract of	490
Dec. 15, 1786	Patterson, Wm. A., Phila., to Robt. Morris	493
[Dec. 27, 1786]	Susquehannah Co., Minutes (1753-1786), Copy of Index	496 524

<i>Date</i>	<i>Heading</i>	<i>Frame</i>
Jan. 12, 1787	Fisher, John, [Northampton Co.], Certification of Service	526
Mar. 6, 1787	Irvine, Wm., [Congressman], New York, to [Congressman] Jas. Wilson	528
Apr. 2, 1787	Hewitt, Thos., Greenwich Twp., Gloucester Co. (N.J.), Character reference for	532
Apr. 13, 1787	Westmoreland Co., Salem Twp., Warrant for J.P. Election (printed).	533
May 2, 1787	Ver Hoeven, J. L., Fiscal, St. Eustatius, to Dutch Consul J. H. Heineken (translation)	535
May 22, 1787	Irvine, Wm., Carlisle, to Col. David Grier	539
June 5, 1787	Phila. Co. Court of Common Pleas, Dockets for three cases	542
Sept. 30, 1787	Hubner, John Andw., Bethlehem, to Mary Cox	544
Oct. 18, 1787	Franks, David, Phila., to Moses Frank	546
[1787]	Land Warrants: Record of acreage in Berks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Northampton & Northumberland Cos. (1767-1787)	548
Jan. 22, 1788	Felker, Godfrey, Northampton Co., Complaint by	556
Mar. 29, 1788	Dukert, Andreas, Peter and Wendel, Andenheim, [Ger.], to Johann Jacob Dukert (in German)	557
May 18, 1788	Pollard, Wm., to Thos. Wigley (No. 1)	561
May 29, 1788	Wigley, T[homas], to _____ Pryor	565
June 17, 1788	Craig, John, Lt., Northampton Co., Receipt for (See: Fisher, John, Jan. 12, 1787)	527
July 3, 1788	Craig, John, Lt., Northampton Co., Receipt for	566
July 25, 1788	Wampler, Ludwick, Westminster, [Md.], to Col. [David] Grier	567
Aug. 26, 1788	Washington Co., Dickinson Twp., Warrant for J. P. Election	569
Oct. 13, 1788	Bingham, Wm., Phila., to _____	571
Mar. 30, 1789	Bower, J[acob], Sheriff, Reading, to William Bradford, Jr.	572
Apr. 23, 1789	Hust?, Jan, Phila., to Leonard de Neufille (in Dutch)	574
Nov. 4, 1789	Kinser, George, Lancaster Co., Writ for his delivery (printed)	577
May 10, 1790	Mifflin, Thos., Phila., to [Gov. John Langdon (N.H.)]	579

<i>Date</i>	<i>Heading</i>	<i>Frame</i>
June 25, 1790	Hartley, Thos., New York, to Capt. John Barry	582
July 10, 1790	Shram?, Yost and George, Certification for (in German)	584
Dec. 11, 1790	Pearson, John, Darby, to John Sellers	586
June 3, 1791	Coxe, Tench, Asst. Secy., Treasury Dept., [New York], to John Barry	589
Oct. 17, [?]	Clift, Nath., Phila., to Col. Isaac Williams	590
n.d.	Donnaldson, [Arthur?], & [Tench?] Coxe, to John Brown	592
n.d.	[Robeson, Andw.], Extract of his Will (fragment)	594
n.d.	Journals of Congress Missing (1779-1785)	596
n.d.	Cooke, Charles, to William Milne	598
n.d.	Cartouch Boxes, York, Memorandum on (to Col. Thomas Hartley)	600
n.d.	Acheson, John & Co., Washington, to George Walles	601
	Reverse Side: Note signed by Rich. Butler & Jno. Gibson	
n.d.	Gordon, A. (for British Officers, Prisoners), York, to Chairman James Smith, [York Co.] Committee [of Correspondence]	603
n.d.	Cox[e] & Furman, Certificate of Bar Iron Delivered	605
n.d.	Essay on a Digest of Laws	607
n.d.	Jones, R. Strettell, [Phila.], to James Biddle	612
n.d.	Smith, R., to John Vannost	614
n.d.	<i>Shoemaker v. Humphrey</i> , Brief of	616
n.d.	Philadelphia Annual & General Directory, Plans for	624
n.d.	Gisslin, _____, Englishman, Note on	626
n.d.	Marines on Ship <i>Pallas</i> , Declaration by (copy)	627
n.d.	Rutherford, Thos., Order by Congress of North Carolina to (copy)	631
n.d.	Chester Co. Election, Opinion by Richard Baker concerning	632
n.d.	Geyer, John, Register, Phila. Co., Certification of	633
n.d.	Gillon, A., Form of a Power to Borrow Money for (translation from Dutch)	635
n.d.	_____, to W. Miller	638

<i>Date</i>	<i>Heading</i>	<i>Frame</i>
n.d.	_____, to _____ (concerning Militia Officers)	640
n.d.	Articles of War, Second & Sixth Sections on Mutiny & Desertion (2 printed items)	643
n.d.	Lesher, Benjamin, Pres. of Court, to Dep. Marshal Charles Gleim, Pa. Dist.	645
n.d.	Form concerning Fornication (fragment)	646
n.d.	Biddle, C[has.], to Clement Biddle	648
n.d.	Lee, Arthur, to Col. [Francis] Johnston (copy)	650
n.d.	Hart, Joseph, to Lt. Francis Murry, Bucks Co.	652
n.d.	Irwin, John, Recommendation to Congress for Ensign's Commission	654
n.d.	Wigner, Capt., Remonstrance of (fragment)	655
n.d.	[Congress], Resolution (Invalids' Accounts), Copy of (fragment)	660
n.d.	Soldiers' Pay, Memorandum concerning	661
n.d.	_____, to "My Fellow Soldiers"	662
n.d.	Richards, James, New Jersey, Testimony of	666
n.d.	Hill, Kent, & Thomas Miller, Plumstead Twp., Bucks Co., Descendents inquiry into their Estates	667
n.d.	Memorandum for purchase of White Lining & Newspapers	668
n.d.	Supplements & Corrections to Laws	669
n.d.	Philadelphia Parade Route	671
n.d.	Bucks Co., Reynold's Tract, Tenements in	672
n.d.	Taylor, John, British Deserter, Information on	673
n.d.	Robins, _____, & Capt. Kemp, Orders to	674

INDEX

- Acheson, John & Co., 16
 Adams, John, 13
 Agence de la Marine Royale, 11
 Albright, Capt. Philip, 7
 Alexander, Charles, 8
 Alexander, William, 8
 Anderson, Richard C., 14
 Appleton, Nathaniel, 8
 Archer, Henry W., 14
 Armstrong, Joseph, 13
 Arnold, Maj. Gen. Benedict, 9
 Articles of War, 17
 Atlee, Samuel J., 7, 12
 Atlee, William A., 6, 8
 Attendance of Members by Name, 8
 Austin, William, 7

 Bailey, Margaret, 8
 Bailey, Maj. William, 8
 Baker, Richard, 16
 Barber, F., 11
 Barry, Capt. John, 16
 Bedford County, militia officer elections, 8, 17
 Bell, John, 5
 Bensel, Charles, 7
 Berks County Orphans' Court, 5
 Beswick, Christopher, 14
 Biddle, Charles, 17
 Biddle, Col. Clement, 12, 17
 Biddle, James, 16
 Biddle, Owen, 11
 Billingsport, 6
 Bingham, William, 15
 Boger, R., 6
 Bond, Thomas, 7
 Boston Mercantile Committee, 13
 Boudinot, Elias, 8, 9, 10
 Bowen, Major, 13
 Bower, Jacob, 13, 15
 Bradford, William, Jr., 15
 Brady, Joseph, 10
 Bready, Hugh, 9
 Brown, John, 9, 11, 12, 16
 Bryon, A., 10
 Bucks County, arms taken from Springfield Twp., 6; Reynold's Tract, 17
 Büler, Andreas, 12

 Bush, Major, 13
 Butler, Maj. Richard, 6, 16

 Cameron, Alan, 7
 Campbell, William, 10
 Cannon, James, 7
 Carleton, Joseph, 13
 Cartouch boxes, 16
 Chamberlaine, James Lloyd, 7
 Charters, William, 14
 Chester County Board, 5; election(s), 13, 16
 Christ, Henry, 8
 Claiborne, Richard, 10
 Clark, Maj. John, 10
 Clark, Robert, 5
 Clark, Walter, 13
 Clark, Col. William, 6
 Clarkson, Matthew, 11, 12
 Clay, Joseph, 12
 Clemens, Jacob, 14
 Clift, Nathaniel, 16
 Cochran, Dr. John, 12
 Constitutional Convention, 6
 Continental Board of War, 6, 7, 9, 10
 Continental Congress, 5, 6; committee resolutions (Supt. of Finance, Robt. Morris), 11; committee report (Indian Affairs), 12; minutes (committee of the states), 13; journals of Congress missing (1779-1785), 16
 Cooke, Charles, 16
 Courts martial, 5
 Court of Admiralty, 11, 12
 Courtenay, Hercules, 14
 Cox, Mary, 15
 Coxe, Tench, 16
 Coxe & Furman, 7, 16
 Craig, Capt. Isaac, 7
 Craig, Lt. John, 15
 Culbertson, John, 11

 Davis, Col. John, 9, 10, 11
 Dean, Col. William, 11
Delaware, Sloop, 13
 Dencke, Jeremias, 6
 Denison, Nathan, 7
 Doherty, Philip, 12

Donaldson, Arthur?, 16
 Donaldson, Joseph, 6
 Donaldson, Maj. Joseph, 7
 Dougherty, Bernard, 11
 Dougherty, Capt. James, 10
 Douglass, George, 5
 Dowlings, Daniel, 6
 Dukert, Andreas, 15
 Dukert, Johann Jacob, 15
 Dukert, Peter, 15
 Dukert, Wendel, 15
 Duncan, James, 10
 Dunlop, James, 7
 Dunwick, William, 5

 Edwards, John, 6
 Elder, Col. Robert, 10
 Eliot, John, 13
 England, Richard?, 11
 Eppright, Jacob, 12

 Farmer, Maj. Lewis, 7
 Felker, Godfrey, 15
 Fisher, John, 15
 Fleeson, Plunket, 12
 Forher, Ludwig Caspar, 13, 14
 Foxcraft, Thomas, 13
 Franklin, Thomas, 9
 Franklin County, petitions, 13
 Franks, David, 15
 Franks, Moses, 15
 Frazier, Capt. P., 5
 French Creek Powder Mill, 6
 French Edict on Judicial & Police
 functions of French Consuls, 9

 Galbraith, Col. Bartrem, 10
 Galbraith, Robert, 12
 Galbraith, Thomas, 8
 Galloway, Joseph, 13
 Gardner, Joseph, 9
 Geddis, George, 10
 General Assembly, 12, 13
 George Mead & Co., 5
 Germantown lots, 5
 Gerry, Elbridge, 7, 8, 14
 Geyer, John, 16
 Gibson, John, 8, 16
 Gilbert, Jonathan, 11
 Gilchrist, Adam, 12
 Gillon, A., 16
 Gisslin, _____, 16

 Gleim, Charles, 17
 Gloniger, John, 12
 Gordon, A., 16
 Gray, William, 6
 Greene, Nathanael, 12
 Grier, Col. David, 7, 8, 9, 15
 Gunmakers, 5

 Hall, John, 9
 Haller, Henrich, 6
 Haller, Henry, 6
 Hampton, John, 7
 Hancock, Pres. John, 5
 Hand, Brig. Gen. Edward, 8, 10, 11
 Hand, Henry, 7
 Hart, Joseph, 6, 17
 Hartley, Thomas, 7, 16
 Haskell, Elnathon, 11
 Hay, Samuel, 8
 Hays, M. M., 12
 Hazelwood, John, 13
 Heath, William, 11
 Heineken, J. H., 15
 Hewitt, Thomas, 15
 Hill, Col. Henry, 6
 Hill, Kent, 17
 Hodgdon, Samuel, 13
 Holker, John, 11
 Hollingsworth, Henry, 10
 Holton, Samuel, 10
 How, Richard, 13
 Hubley, Adam, 11, 12
 Hubner, John Andrew, 15
 Hull, William, 12
 Huntington, Samuel (Conn.), 7
 Hust?, Jan, 15

 [Invalids' Accounts], 17
 Irvine, Gen. William, 10, 15
 Irwin, John, 17
 Irwin (Erwin), William, 13, 14

 Jackson, Lt. Col., 12
 Jacobs, John, 6
 Johnston, Col. Francis, 17
 Johnston, Lary, 7
 Jones, R. Strettell, 16

 Kearns, Robert, 10
 Kemp, Captain, 17
 Kennedy, Samuel, 5
 Ker, Daniel, 5

Kerby, John, 10
 Kinser, George, 15
 Kirkbride, Col. Joseph, 6
 Kirkham, Anthony, 5
 Knight, John, 7
 Kohler, Peter, 9
 Kreisher (Kreishner), Michael, 8
 Kuhn, Lodwig (Ludowick), 6

 Lacey, John, 11
 Laddon, James S., 14
 Lancaster County Committee, 5; Sub
 Committee, 5
 Land Warrants, 15
 Langdon, Gov. John (N.H.), 15
 Latimer, George, 7
 Laurens, Henry, 9, 10
 Lawaeg?, Henry, 9
 Laws, Essay on Digest of, 16; supple-
 ments & corrections to, 17
 Lee, Arthur, 17
 Lee, Gersham, 7
 Leshner, Benjamin, 17
 Levy, Aaron, 14
Liberty, shallop, 7
 Linch, William Butler, 7
 Lincoln, Maj. Gen. Benjamin, 10, 12
 Litle (Little), John, 11
 Lynch, Captain, 10

 McCarthy, _____, 10
 McClaran, Hugh, 9
 McClean, Alexander, 10
 McCune, Samuel, 6
 McDowell, John, 7
 McIlvaine, Joseph, 6
 McIntosh, Lachlan, 12
 Mackay, Eneas, 6
 Mackay, Sgt. George, 7
 McKean, Thomas, 11
 McKissack, William, 9
 McMachan, James, 14
 McVeagh, Benjamin, 11
 Mansan, Terrance?, 11
 Martin, Robert, 14
 Maxwell, James, 10
 Mifflin, Thomas, 13, 15
 Militia officers, Bedford County, 8,
 17
 Miller, Thomas, 17
 Miller, W., 16

Milne, William, 16
 Mitchell, Col. John, 9
 Molesworth, James, 5
 Moor, John, 6
 Morris, Robert, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14
 Mowan (Bowen), Major, 13
 Murry, Lt. Francis, 17
 Mush, Dr. John, 9
 Muskets received, 6

 Nesbitt, Jonathan, & Co., 11
 Neufille, Leonard de, 15
 New Jersey, form of Attorney Gen-
 eral's commission, 8; Commission-
 er's propositions, 14
 Nicholas, Thomas, 5
 North, Major, 14
 North Carolina, Congress of, 16
 Northumberland County, elections,
 8; orders for surveys, 13; commis-
 sioners' journals, 14
 Nourse, Joseph, 9

 Officers of Col. Baxter's regt., 10
 Opp, Jacob, 6

Pallas, ship, 16
 Palmer, Joseph, 10
 Papley, Susannah, 7
 Parker, Andrew, 11
 Parsey, John, 7
 Parsons, Samuel H., 6
 Patterson, William A., 14
 Pearson, John, 16
 Pemberton, Captain, 12
 Perkins, Josiah, 10
 Peters, Richard, 6, 10
 Pettit, Charles, 9, 13
 Philadelphia, port wardens, 13;
 county, Court of Common Pleas,
 15; plans for directory, 16; parade
 route, 17
 Pickering, Timothy, 8, 11, 13
 Pilkington, Thomas, 8
 Pollard, William, 15
 Pomroy, Capt. Abner, 9
 Porter, Captain, 9
 Postlethwaite, Capt. Samuel, 9
 Powel, Mayor Samuel, 5
 Pringle, John, 5
 Preston, Charles, 5

- Procter (Proctor), Col. Thomas, 7, 13
 Pryor, _____, 14, 15
 Purveyor & Apothecary, Remarks concerning, 11
- Reid, George, 6
 Reid, James R., 12
 Reilly, Peter, 12
 Richards, James, 17
 Richardson, Joseph, 8
 Rittenhouse, David, 11
 Roach, Isaac, 13
 Roberdeau, Daniel, 8
 Robeson, Andrew, 16
 Robins, _____, 17
 Rodgers, Joseph, 14
 Ross, George, 13
 Ross, John, 5
 Roushe, William, 7
 Rucker, John, 11
 Russel, Ensign William, 9
 Rutherford, Thomas, 16
 Ryan, Maj. Michael, 6
- Samuel Inglis & Co., 14
 Scott, Capt. Abraham, 10
 Seagrove, James, 12
 Sellers, John, 16
 Shareman (Sherman), Roger, 7
 Shield(s), Luke, 13
Shoemaker v. Humphrey, 16
 Shram?, George, 16
 Shram?, Yost, 16
 Shrear, George, 13
 Shute, William, 10
 Simpson, James, 7
 Sloop. *Sall*, 10
 Smith, Abraham, 12
 Smith, J., 6
 Smith, James, 16
 Smith, Capt. John, 7
 Smith, R., 16
 Smith, Thomas, 9, 13
 Soldiers' pay, 17
 Southwark lots, 5
 Stark, Brig. Gen. John, 9
 State Temporary Line, 12
 Steel, William, 12
- Stewart, Alexander, 13
 Stewart, Charles, 10
 Stirling, Lord, 9
 Stockton, Richard, 7
 Stroud, Lt. Col. Jacob, 14
 Sullivan, Brig. Gen. John, 5
 Susquehannah Company, 14
 Swanwick, John, 5, 8
 Sweers, Hannah, 9
 Swift, John White, 8
 Swift, Samuel, Jr., 11
- Taylor, John, 17
 Thompson, William, 8, 10
 Thomson, Charles, 14
 Townsend, David, 9
 Trentlin, John Adam (Ga.), 8
 Trindle, John, 12
 Turck, Capt. Daniel, 6
- U.S. Board of Treasury, 8, 14
- Vannost, John, 16
 Varrick, Richard, 11
 Ver Hoeven, J. L., 15
- Wallis, George, 16
 Wampler, Ludwick, 15
 Warren, Dr. John, 7
 Washington County, J. P. election, 15
 Washington, Gen. George, 10, 12
 Watkins, Joseph, 9
 Wayne, Anthony, 12
 Weedon, G., 9
 Westmoreland County, J. P. election, 12, 15
 Whilldin, James, 7
 Wigley, Thomas, 15
 Wigner, Captain, 17
 Will, William, 11, 13
 Williams, Edward, 12, 13
 Williams, Col. Isaac, 16
 Wilson, Col. James, 6, 15
 Wilson, Robert, 9
 Wilson, William, 14
 Woelpper, Capt. D., 6
- York County, Committee of Safety, 6
 Young, Ludwig, 12

